

## IMAGINEBLOOMINGTON STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY, JUNE 5, 2013

*Meeting summaries are transcribed in an abridged manner and no audio recordings are available. All Steering Committee meetings are open to the public.*

### **Attendance:**

*Steering Committee Members:* Jack Baker, Doug Bruce, John Carter, Dave Harstad, Nikki Johnson, Mike Litwin, Andy Ruff, Steve Smith, Phil Stafford, Maggie Sullivan, Tom Swafford and Carl Zager

*Others in attendance:* Josh Desmond (staff), Scott Robinson (staff), Jacqui Bauer (staff), Nate Nickel (staff), Katie Bannon (staff), Paula McDevitt (staff) and Madie Bruker (staff).

### **Continued Goal Setting for Goal Two Topics:**

Mr. Robinson opened the meeting with a brief overview of the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. He then asked for thoughts and comments regarding the Group 2 topics and especially that of Human Condition. Ms. Sullivan asked how specific the Steering Committee should be with setting targets. Mr. Robinson answered that although not completely necessary, more specific goals are very helpful at this point. Mr. Bruce discussed a computer model that could be utilized as a baseline for data metrics regarding energy efficiency. Ms. Sullivan talked about the consumption reduction goals that the Commission on Sustainability is working on. She said that some are planning and zoning related, while others are more general in nature.

Mr. Baker said there is a need to determine what to do with specific energy metrics once they are determined. He said that guidelines are needed to best determine potential outcomes. Mr. Carter gave an overview of current MCCSC energy efficiency projects. He said that energy savings have positive budget impacts, which allow funds to be used for other projects instead. Mr. Harstad said that drainage and stormwater issues are important to consider. Mr. Smith said that stormwater best management practices are constantly evolving. He also said that coordination between the Planning and Utilities Departments regarding stormwater management is very important.

Mr. Litwin said that growth is another issue to consider for the future. Preparing a detailed cost/benefit analysis is needed to further study both growth limitations, as well as preferred locations for future growth. Mr. Stafford said Bloomington might be facing an alternative growth scenario. Since it's a developed city, future growth scenarios may instead focus entirely on increasing density. Ms. Sullivan discussed several ongoing local food initiatives, one of which includes a proposed "Food Charter". A major goal is to have Bloomington become a model community for local food efforts. The hope is that the City Council will eventually adopt this charter. She said that some language from it could also be included in the comprehensive plan, too.

Mr. Robinson asked if there were any particular suggestions regarding the Human Condition topic. Mr. Carter provided an overview of current conditions and issues facing the MCCSC. Mr. Zager gave some additional comments on local education efforts that are on-going in the community. Mr. Robinson asked for thoughts concerning Pre-K education. Mr. Carter discussed the Head Start program. He also talked about the technical education opportunities offered by the Hoosier Hills Career Center for high school students.

Mr. Robinson said that lots of good things are happening with education, but are there any challenges that need to be met? Mr. Carter said that the MCCSC budget is always an issue to consider, but it was one of the very few school corporations in the state to have a local property tax referendum pass. He also said that all the MCCSC high schools have had sizeable increases in graduation rates.

Ms. Bauer asked about demographic trends that might affect the schools. Mr. Carter discussed diversity in the schools, as well as non-English speaking students. Mr. Zager talked about how diverse MCCSC schools are compared to the rest of the state. He also said that Indiana University not only attracts local diversity, but also has many resources to assist the schools with that diverse population. Mr. Stafford discussed the idea of “lifespan” in the Human Condition. Housing costs especially can impact people of all ages, specifically in regards to children being able to remain in their school district for the entire year.

Mr. Baker said a potential policy issue in the new comprehensive plan could be to recommend new or increased levels of technical/vocational education programs. Discussion ensued regarding career training programs offered at Ivy Tech. Mr. Stafford mentioned that older adults can be an asset to local schools, such as helping with reading programs. Ms. Johnson agreed and said that a successful local program with the business community was conducted at the Fairview School a few years ago.

Ms. McDevitt provided an overview of on-going health and wellness activity campaigns being conducted in the community. Mr. Bruce said that incentives for healthy lifestyles need to be practical to succeed. One example he has seen work is providing showers in the restrooms for employees to use after exercising. He suggested that the comprehensive plan could be a good opportunity to encourage these types of programs for the built environment. Mr. Stafford said a “health impact assessment”, such as those conducted by some other cities, could be beneficial. He recommended doing one to study the scenario of the hospital possibly moving from its current location.

Mr. Robinson said that the topic of Human Condition also encompasses the homeless population and asked for thoughts about this. Mr. Baker said that homeless and low income people can now easily access hospital services by either public transit or walking. If it were to move out of town, transportation for the homeless to the hospital will need to be addressed. Mr. Zager agreed that transportation access is a major factor in providing homeless services. Mr. Litwin said that intervention is often needed to help homeless people. Mr. Swafford agreed and said that there needs to be more services offered than simply providing food. Discussion ensued regarding current mental healthcare providers in the community. Mr. Stafford said that homelessness is not just an issue for Bloomington, but is really a regional issue. He talked about a “Housing First” strategy, in which people are placed in housing before other additional services are provided. Mr. Stafford said this strategy could be recommended in the new comprehensive plan.

Mr. Robinson closed by reminding the Steering Committee that draft goals for the Group 2 topics would be made available soon. A public workshop to review them will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Monroe County Public Library and starts at 6:00 PM. He invited all members to attend and encourage others to go as well. The goals will also be available for public review and comment via both the UserVoice forum and on-line survey on the ImagineBloomington website. Mr. Robinson said that to accommodate busy summer vacation schedules, the Steering Committee will take some time off and next meet again on July 31.